



MEDIA RELEASE

DUI, Hit-and-Run & Child Endangerment Arrest

SANTA BARBARA, CA – June 5, 2013

Adriana Cardenas, age 34, of Santa Barbara was arrested for felony child endangerment, misdemeanor DUI, and misdemeanor hit-and-run following two collisions with parked cars. She was observed by a witness driving with her 3-year old daughter unrestrained on her lap.

On June 3, 2013, at 1:52 p.m., Santa Barbara Police Department Officers Daniel Garcia, Kyle Crooks, John Thompson, and Todd Montag responded to investigate two hit-and-run traffic collisions that occurred in Santa Barbara's Waterfront area. Officer Garcia located the suspect vehicle parked in a parking lot off of 300 S. Milpas Street with the driver, Cardenas, passed out behind the wheel of her white Audi A4 with her 3-year old daughter in her arms. When roused Cardenas appeared lethargic and heavily impaired.

Investigation indicates that Cardenas first struck a parked Toyota Tacoma on 300 E. Cabrillo Boulevard while she was attempting to make a U-turn. She fled the scene, eastbound, followed by a witness. She stopped a few blocks away and the witness tried to convince her to return to the scene of the accident. Instead Cardenas drove away, continuing eastbound on Cabrillo Boulevard. A moment later she struck a Honda CRV parked on 400 Por La Mar Drive. A different witness at that location saw the collision and noticed Cardenas was driving with her 3-year old daughter on her lap. After striking the CRV Cardenas exited her vehicle and placed her daughter in a child car seat that was in her car. This witness advised Cardenas to remain at the scene however she did not; instead, she got back into her car and drove away westbound on Niños Drive. Shortly thereafter she was found by Officer Garcia on 300 S. Milpas Street.

Cardenas and her daughter were transported by paramedics to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Emergency Room for medical evaluation. The child complained of a headache. A DUI investigation was conducted and Cardenas was found to have been driving under the influence of a combination of prescription medications, including narcotics.

Cardenas was arrested and booked into Santa Barbara County Jail on the aforementioned charges with a bail amount of \$100,000.00. Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services took custody of her daughter. Photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.



Cardenas, Adriana

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